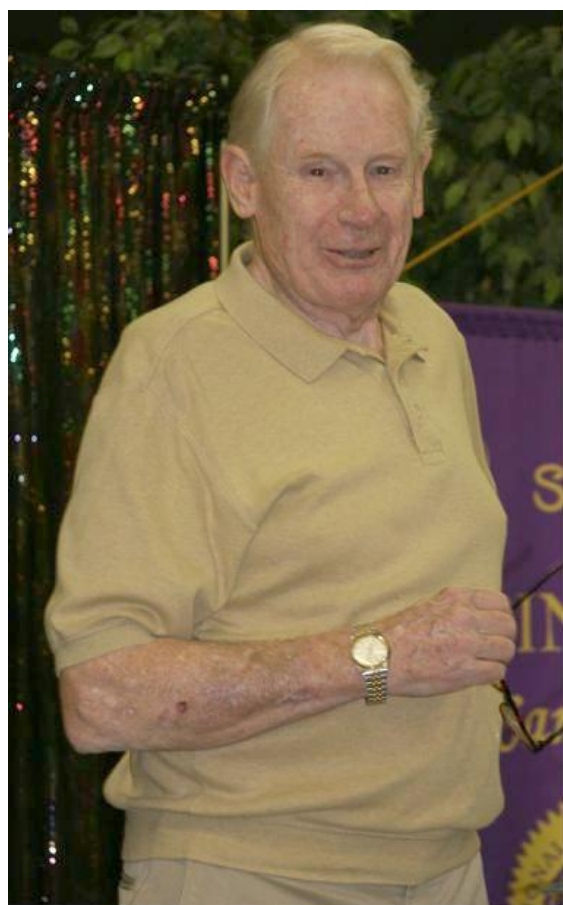




MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76 SEPTEMBER 2013

VOL. XXVII #9



JP Jackson

1936 — 2013

In Memoriam

Editors Note: Jack White and Michael E. Johnson submitted articles in memory of JP. Jack also submitted a short story about JP. All are included in this edition of MagicCurrents.

John Peter Jackson, died in San Diego on August 8, 2013, after a brief illness. He was better known as “JP” and in addition to having a keen sense of humor, he had an avid love of magic, carnivals, circuses, county fairs and all outdoor amusements.

Born in Chicago, JP grew up in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. His father would often travel to Chicago on business and instead of bringing a toy home to JP, he would bring a gag or magic trick. Most were Adams Magic Products and JP didn’t take any time becoming proficient doing his tricks and performing local shows.

He still had the first trick his father bought him, “The Sore Finger,” and proudly displayed it in his huge collection of magic.

After graduating from high school in Stevens Point, JP entered the Army Academy at West Point, New York. He spent some time there and then transferred to the Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland. Subsequently he served in the US Navy for 30 years.

Upon entering the Navy, JP sold his small collection of magic apparatus to Joe Berg at the Princess Magic Shop in Chicago. For the next 20 years, JP forgot about magic, until one day when he walked into a northern Californian magic shop and was once again bitten by the magic bug. He began building an apparatus collection of fine craftsmanship and unique modus operandi.

Soon after acquiring much of his antique apparatus, he realized it was important to understand its history and that of its creators and builders. He spent many years hunting down lost and forgotten magic affects, while at the same time, creating a huge magic library. JP also stayed current with today’s magic and produced for sale a number of his own “color changing knives.”

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HONEST SID GERHART RING 76

EDITOR JAMES THAYER — EDITOR@RING76.COM



JP was active in the International Brotherhood of Magicians, serving two years as president of Ring 76 in San Diego. He was also active at many other magic conventions and in magic collectors organizations.

JP's home was like a haunted magic castle. It is a huge two story wooden frame structure with collectible magic stacked high throughout every room.

In recent years JP's phone would ring all day with calls from magicians and magic collectors asking if he knew where they could find a certain prop or instructions on how an apparatus worked. JP was extremely generous in sharing information as well as showing off his collections whenever asked.

JP is survived by his sister Jean Schaeffe, and three sons, Patrick, Michael and Jay. He will be sadly missed by magic collectors and magicians around the world.

— Jack White



JP Jackson, an honored member of IBM Ring 76, died on August 8, 2013, in San Diego. He was 77 years old. He is survived by three sons, three grandchildren, and one of the most magnificent magic collections in the world. It was his specific request that no broken wand ceremony be held. But that didn't stop friends and family from honoring him in their own magical ways.

The Genii Forum was alive with tributes to JP from friends around the county. Richard Kaufman from Washington D.C. called JP "...one of the nicest guys in the world and friend to all."

Kevin Connolly from New Jersey praised JP as, "a great magic collector and human being."

Ruben Padilla from Los Angeles wrote "he was always a straight shooter--honest and kind, and went out of his way many times for friends."

In an exclusive interview for IBM Ring 76 MagiCurrents, JP's sister Jean Schaeffe shared fond memories about her brother and his love of magic. "It started with a standard child's interest... 'Where did it go? How did you do it?' Then it came full flower after his retirement," she said.

"Johnny" was born on July 10, 1936, around Chicago, Illinois. His family moved to Stevens Point, Wisconsin, where he grew up. His interest in magic developed in high school, more on the performing level. It wasn't until his later years he got into the mechanics and history of magic tricks.

After graduating high school in 1954, he spent a year in prep school so he could qualify for the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland. He was accepted and graduated in 1959. His service took him to Vietnam, among other places. When he was





severely injured in a boating accident, he declined a Purple Heart medal because he felt that others were more deserving. At the time of his retirement in 1986, he was a Lieutenant Commander.

Family was important to JP, and he took great pride in his sons, John Patrick Jackson, Michael Webster Jackson and Jay Christopher Jackson. He was also blessed with three grandchildren, Mariah Skyllar Jackson, Connor Nicholas Jackson and Riley Elizabeth Jackson. The grandkids enjoyed visiting Grandpa's home, which was like a magic museum. It was packed with magic, from the floor to the ceiling.

Magic Mike Stilwell remembers the early years, when he saw JP at magic shows throughout San Diego County, always with his sons. "I'd be at Seaport Village, or the Del Mar Fair, or Black Angus restaurant, and I'd look up, and there would be JP and his boys. He always had his boys with him."

Former IBM Ring 76 President Dick Dale enjoyed working with JP on the Executive Committee. He even owns a videotape of JP performing magic at a kid's birthday party. "He made me promise to never show it to anyone," Dick confessed.

Speaking of JP, IBM International President Jack White said, "We were like brothers." The two ran an unofficial business "Pair of Jacks" buying and selling magic collections. They even sponsored a few sales at Jack's Magic Clubhouse off University Ave. in San Diego. Guests who ventured beyond



the doors of "Woofle Dust, Inc." were given special treat bags filled with tricks and merchandise.

JP lived part-time at Evanston, Illinois, visiting family at least five to six times a year. Sister Jean said that the third floor of her home was packed with his magic. "He always had magic going back and forth" she said. JP was one of a handful of people in the world who could fix the broken toys of magicians. He was constantly engaged in buying, selling, fixing and consulting.

He took a special interest in the International Brotherhood of Magicians, Ring 76 in San Diego. He was named Member of the Year in 1989, and served as

Ring 76 President from 1990-1991. He attended many meetings, taking great pleasure in watching magic, but also enjoying an occasional spotlight. Whenever he performed, everyone sat up and paid attention, because he only performed special tricks. And when he spoke, people listened, because JP was a straight shooter, and he spared neither praise nor criticism when it came to magic.

The Ring 76 Swap Meet and Auction were favorite places for him, not just for selling, but also for sharing. His tables overflowed with magic, from the ridiculous to the rare. Profit was seldom his motive. He spent a lot of time answering questions, helping other people sell their stuff. Once someone needed magic books as gifts for kids in a magic class. JP sold them 20 magic books, some hard covers, some first editions, some older than him, for a mere \$5 each. He always cared about the little guy.

JP loved finding new treasures. When Bob Meigs brought in a copy of the massive tome "Magic: 1400s

1950s,” JP stared at the book like a child at Christmas. “Whooooooooo” he said. He then asked to have his picture taken with the book. He looked like a proud suitor with a hot date. “That’s good stuff” was a favorite saying of his, when referring to collectible magic.

At the August 19, 2013 meeting, members of IBM Ring 76 were treated to a special booklet honoring JP, titled “Magic Memories of JP Jackson, from His Friends At IBM Ring 76.” The 12-page booklet was packed with photos and notes about JP, including a story by Brad Burt. One hundred signed and numbered copies were passed out to magic club members. Another twenty copies were produced for his family at the funeral. The booklet was funded by donations.

There are reports that JP’s magic estate is being handled by Gabe Fajuri from Potter & Potter Auctions. This should result in an amazing auction, when JP’s private collection is finally revealed to the public. There’s already excitement in the marketplace. A copy of JP’s tribute booklet is currently selling on eBay for \$100. (It is #2/100, and it is signed by Jack White, Terry Lunceford, Magic Mike Stilwell and Brad Burt.) JP left many valuable treasures in his magic museum, but nothing as precious as the time he freely shared with his family and friends at IBM Ring 76.

— Michael E. Johnson



A Short JP Story

One Halloween, JP suggested to Jack White, both Ring 76 members, that they should perform the “Spirit Painting,” for the Ring’s Halloween Show. JP’s Shadow Painting was one of only three copies made by legendary magician Paul Fox.

JP had a penchant for tinkering with his magic, and thus was so with his Spirit Painting apparatus. So after much rehearsal, Jack and JP were ready to perform the illusion. It was just that the Spirit Painting was a little worn out and did not respond on cue. To stall for time, Jack called to the spirit for a sign, any sign, that the spirit was present. Immediately two fire trucks stormed past the building with sirens blaring. As the crowd turned to see the commotion, JP nudged the motor on the Spirit Painting. When the audience turned back to the show, the Spirit Painting was materializing before their eyes.

Of course JP attributed the appearance of the fire trucks as all part of the trick.

— Jack White

Homemade Magic Night

What if there were no magic shops and all you had to work with were household items, what kind of magic would you create? Here is a fun opportunity to experiment with objects we ordinarily would not associate with magic. This is a great lesson in creativity.

Here are some ideas to keep in mind.

- Tin Cans instead of Paul Fox Cups
- Bottle Caps instead of Silver Dollars
- Photographs instead of Playing Cards
- Paper Towels, Shirts or Towels instead of Silk Hankies
- Wire Hangers instead of Linking Rings
- Card Board production box instead of those ancy Wooden ones with the Chinese writing.
- Feel free to use Fruits, Vegetables, Nuts etc....

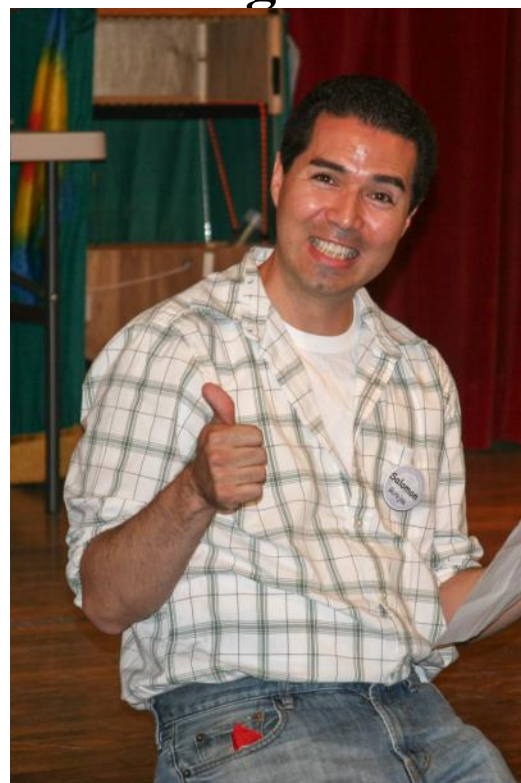
(Continued on page 10)



Photos from the August Meeting



Bob Meigs



Master of Ceremonies—Sal Barajas



Richard Ustick



Cary Schaffner



Photos from the August Meeting



Charlie Gott



Malcolm Campbell



Nick Brown



Jacques Lord



Photos from the August Meeting



Donna Greenbaum



Alex Greenbaum



Kenny Shelton (center)



Loch David Crane



Photos from the August Meeting



Jeff Marcus



Alfonso Vasquez



Silky Smooth August Performers

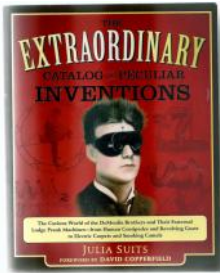
A Dual Review

Reviewed by Joel A Moskowitz M D
June 2nd, 2013

When I was active as a regular member of The Magic Castle, I had the privilege of serving as Chairman of the Library Committee. I observed learned professionals were interested in the older literature. There is a maxim: "If you want it to be a secret, publish it." That is why the two reviews appealed to me and I hope it will to my readers as well.

Selection One:

Most magicians are admonished not to abuse their audience. We fool them but we are not supposed to make a fool of them. The mystifying magic is part of the spectrum of deceiving with a prank. David Copperfield's name caught my attention on the cover of a book entitled "Extraordinary Catalogue of Peculiar Inventions" by Julia Suits. Copperfield reveals his fascination for these forms of nonsense. He infers that he owns some and they are displayed in his museum. Legal advice cautioned him to have visitors sign a release lest they suffer a heart attack or other adverse medical condition. Few conjurers that I know protect themselves in this way.

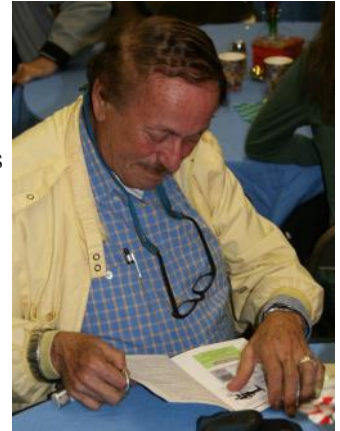


This book dealing with quasi magical subjects almost a century ago is reviewed with "Stage Illusions" written by Wil Goldston of the same vintage are both reviewed below.

First, Extraordinary Catalogue of Peculiar Inventions" by Julia Suits

Fraternities, Sororities employ pranks as a hurdle for membership. In the days of the early twentieth century, 40 percent of American men belonged to a lodge e.g. Odd Fellows (my father, an illiterate immigrant joined this mutual benefit society) Harry Houdini, Walt Disney joined. Masons included William Shakespeare, Irving Berlin, Mark Twain. Odd Fellows had on their roster: FDR, Charles Chaplin and other luminaries.

They all were subjected to hazing. The gadgets, tools, instruments were manufactured by the DeMoulin Brothers Company (1895-1930) Ms Suits, a cartoonist by profession, stumbled on one of their catalogues in a flea market. The illustrated offerings are remarkably similar to conjurer's apparatus.



One of their items: "The Muscular Test" for \$22.50 is reminiscent of Robert Houdin's trick deceiving native strong men that he could render them powerless. DeMoulin's item was not so kind - it disabled the candidate by imparting a shocking electric current. "Knife Throwing Stunt" simulates an Arab throwing knives with dexterity - the courageous 'target' gets a slight electrical charge when the projectile nearly misses him/her. Paraphernalia included guillotines, guns which when triggered could break plates surrounding the 'assistant' whose back was to the target.

Human centipedes, revolving goats and smoking camels may trigger a stunt which will delight present day magicians and their audiences. The illustrated shenanigans depicted in this catalogue will amuse some, enlighten others, and will stimulate clever methods for the inventive magician.

Dr. Moskowitz prescribes this 5/5 (Rx Rx Rx Rx Rx

Selection Two:

What follows a resurrection of a book written/published a century ago:

Contemporary followers of the art of conjuring may be acquainted with:

Exclusive Magical Secrets [Paperback]
Famous locked book of magic Will Goldston
(Author) Dover 1977

(Continued on page 10)

(Homemade Magic — Continued from page 4)

- Home Electronics, CD's, DVD's, Cassette Tapes...etc...
- Knitting items
- Pencils, Pens, Markers
- Surprise us...

What is important is that you made it yourself.

To sign up please contact
salomonbarajas@yahoo.com

Please let me know what type of effect you are doing to make sure that no two acts are the same.

— Salomon Barajas

David Gabbay Lecture

David Gabbay is a talented, award winning magician and creator of some of the most visual, cutting edge effects put out in recent years. His abilities transcend the perception of what magic can look like performed on any stage or just inches away. In 2011, David won First Place Award for Close-Up Magic at the TAOM Convention.

(Continued on page 11)

"MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman

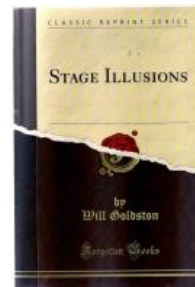


"Well, are we comfy enough now? !"

(William Goldston — Continued from page 9)

Probably few recognize the name "Carl Davo" who was a Black Art performer, circa 1898-1907. Subsequent career marketing 'magic tricks' at a London department store, Gamages. A disciple of Professor Alexander, friend of Harry Houdini, author of Exclusive Magic Secrets (1912, republished in 1977).

Was he born in Warsaw, Poland or Liverpool, England? Did he abbreviate his name from Wolf Goldstone to Will Goldston. A British Jew. Famous for 'cracking' the Zancig Code used by Danish illusionists in pursuit of validating the 'authenticity' of mediums.



Editor of Magician Annual (1907), Founder of London's Magician's Club (1911) Owner-manager of Aladdin House (London).

He was a prolific writer but he offended some of his magician pals (Chung Ling Soo among others) because he revealed their secrets in his publications, some of which are thought to be ghost written.

"Stage Illusions", by Will Goldston published by The Magician Ltd, Robin Hood Yard, London E.C. (1912) is yours for a minimal charge (via Amazon) This classic has been reprinted by Forgotten Books.

The first section of the book is devoted to illusions where an assistant appears: The Mysterious Lady; An Indian Basket Trick; A Good Levitation; The Glass Lined Trunk and many others. Part II is entitled Miscellaneous Illusions including The Spirit Blackboard; Conradi's Coin Ladder; A Number of Box Escapes Explained; Original Flying Handkerchief Illusion and more.

Utilizing latest technology to regenerate facsimiles of historically important writings. One million free e books can be discovered at www.ForgottenBooks.org.

This is recommended by Dr Moskowitz as well
5/5 Rx Rx Rx Rx Rx.



David will be presenting his lecture to Ring 76 on September 22nd at 7pm. The lecture will be at the Lions Club; 3927 Utah Street; San Diego CA 92104.

Ring 76 members may attend free of charge (as this is one of the lectures included in your membership). Admission for non-members will be \$20 at the door.

Smooth as Silk

Our August meeting was a week late, as many of our members were off expanding their magic acquaintances, knowledge, and skills at Magic Live! The theme for out-of-sync meeting was Smooth as Silk – that is, Silk Magic. Prior to the meeting, Loch David Crane, Rob Vincent, and Nick Brown operated sellers tables.

The meeting was convened at 7PM by President Derek Ostovani. As most of us knew, long-time member and friend, JP Jackson, passed way on August 8. JP specifically asked that we not perform a Broken Wand ceremony. However, member Michael E. Johnson prepared a small booklet as a tribute to JP, which he distributed at no cost to members.

Derek announced an upcoming Ring lecture by David Gabbay on Sunday, September 22, at 7PM. Malcolm Campbell sought a magician to perform at the upcoming Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation Ride For Kids, and Kenny Shelton passed out registration applications for the 2014 combined



Ring 76 2013-14 Calendar

Sept 9	Homemade Magic*
Oct 14	Halloween Magic*
Nov 11	Auction
Dec 9	Holiday Banquet
Jan 13	Anything But Cards (ABC)*
Feb 10	Close-Up Competition*
Mar 10	Mentalism*
Apr 14	Teach-A-Trick Night
May 12	Stand-Up Competition*
Jun 9	Money Magic
Jul TBD	Installation Banquet

* Opportunity for Members to Perform

IBM/SAM Convention in Saint Louis. Derek announced the publication of a book of magic cartoons by Ellen Friedman and Jim Whiting, titled A Rabbit Under the Hat. Many of these cartoons first appears in Magicurrents.

Bob Meigs opened the evening's magic with a Silk in Apple routine, scripted as the legend of William Tell, in the format of an "alternative reality" show. Richard Ustick, our 2012-13 Entertainer of the Year, followed with one of his patented singing routines, Silks are a Magician's Best Friend to the tune Diamonds are a Girls Best Friend. As the song progressed, he performed a half-dozen or more silk tricks, concluding with a silk fountain. Our third performer was Cary Shaffner, who did an original Mismade Flag, set to music.

Charlie Gott, our resident Gospel-ist, stood behind his pulpit and delivered a sermon that included a magical version of the resurrection, using Twentieth Century Silks. Then Malcolm Campbell, dressed in western garb, told a tall tale of a western sheriff, whose hands tied by with ropes and silks by desperadoes. Magically, the rope passed through the silk, allowing him to escape.

Our next performer was Nick Brown, taking a cue from Richard's success, did voluminous silk



productions to the song, It Never Ends. Last year's Stage Magician of the Year, Jacques Lord, did a complete comedy act, creating various characters from only a "humble red bandana." Donna Greenbaum, feeling hot (with good reason, in our very stuffy venue) produced a cold coke from a silk. Donna's son, Alex Greenbaum, in the guise of Indian Jones, followed by producing a large diamond from a silk.

Loch David Crane displayed three silks, which magically untied themselves from a leather belt. Following the initial demonstration with silks, he performed the Mayor Filner Version, using various silk undergarments Loch had somehow procured from the Mayor's extensive personal collection. Kenny Shelton followed with a sleight of hand routine, called Balls and Silk. Alfonso Vasquez produced red, white, and blue silks from one black silk, and then used to colored silks to produce a long string of flags, with a giant Old Glory at the center.

Jeff Marcus, 2012-13 Member of the Year, concluded the evening by simultaneously cutting and restoring both a newspaper and a silk. WOW! Who'd of thought all that could be done with a common handkerchief?

After the meeting, we had a BIG turnout at our new haunt, the nearby Denny's.

— Bob Meigs

Father Joe's Village Show

Ring 76 has made performing at Father Joe's Village a semi-annual event. Thank you to the entertainers that have volunteered in the past 3 shows. Ring 76 is well noted there and appreciated. These are homeless families that are staying at the village for a short time. We need volunteers for our next show there on Thursday, October 24, 2013 and the show starts at 6:30PM and lasts until we are done. Usually 1 to 1½ hours total. If you want to volunteer 5, 10 or 15 minutes or more of magic, contact Joe Mystic at joemystic@san.rr.com or see him at one of the meetings. We like having 5 or 6 entertainers at each show. Remember your audience doesn't get to see much in the way of entertainment so this is a great

place to try out something new or just to get your feet wet in front of a live audience.

— Joe Mystic

Performance Feedback

As an additional service to its members, honest and constructive feedback will be available for any effect or routine presented at Ring 76 meetings. If you would like to receive this feedback, please contact Sal Barajas either in person or via e-mail (salomonbarajas@yahoo.com)

— Sal Barajas

Magic Notes

Coming up in October, Nathan Kranzo will be here in San Diego presenting an exclusive workshop. Nathan is a great close-up/stand-up magician from Michigan. This new workshop will be exclusive to 15 people and include over \$200 worth of magic with your paid attendance!

The workshop will be on October 1st (Tuesday) at the DoubleTree Hotel in Mission Valley (same hotel as Magic-Con). All who attend should arrive as close to 6:00pm as possible to eat dinner (or get a drink) with all in attendance. Around 7:00pm, the workshop will begin and end around 9:30 or 10:00pm. Admittance is only \$50, and as mentioned, will include over \$200 worth of magic (multiple PDF files and DVDs will be given to each attendee).

If you are interested in attending, or simply want to know a little more about the workshop, contact Syd Segal at 619-300-1344 or btl6380@aol.com. Once the 15 seats are reserved, that will be it. If you are interested in attending, Syd recommends that you contact him quickly.



"The world is full of magic things, patiently waiting for our senses to grow sharper."

— W.B. Yeats